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THE WATER SITUATION.

The Deseret News, in expressing doubt about the truth of the story that the directors of the North Jordan Canal company were coming into harmony with the other irrigation companies in this country, on the consolidation plan was correct, although our contemporaries all expressed opinions to the effect that the contemplated union was assured.

The result of the meeting of the North Jordan stockholders was surprising to everybody: to some more than to others. It was also regrettable in the extreme. In refusing to join with their neighbors and friends to secure government aid for the grand purpose in view, we believe that most of them acted upon a misapprehension of the whole matter, and its possible effects on their rights and necessities. This is evident to us by the resolutions that were passed at the meeting.

If there is anything certain in the whole proceeding, it is the fact that the North Jordan people were made secure in the retention of every water right established by decree of court. Yet the resolutions assert that these rights would be abrogated if they entered the consolidation. This is amazing in view of the safeguards thrown around them.

The misunderstanding about the advice and conclusions of Professor Newell exhibited in the resolutions, is also remarkable and shows that the framers and adopters acted under wrong impressions on that point. This is lamentable considering the result of the error.

The insinuations about the gentlemen who have taken the most active part in moving for the consolidation, were most undesigned and unworthy of those who uttered them. We are sure that the object in view was the public welfare and not any individual profit. Particularly has this been the case with Col. Holmes, whose disinterested labors deserved a very different reception and result, and the other prominent workers in the movement are also entitled to high commendation.

The possibility of proceeding without the participation of the company that has determined to remain aloof, is now under consideration. What will come of it remains to be seen. If the whole plan should fall through, the responsibility will rest where we have heretofore indicated, and the loss will eventually be felt by all users of water from the Utah lake source of supply. We believe the time will come when no one will regret the action taken last Friday, more than the people who refused to go into the consolidation.

THE VENEZUELA TROUBLE.
Dispatches from different places say the Venezuela trouble will soon be settled. Minister Bowen's propositions will be accepted, the blockade will be raised, and the dispute will be arbitrated. It is to be hoped that these statements are correct. The Venezuela affair should never have been permitted to develop a condition so dangerous as the one just passed.

Venezuela is owing some of the great powers money. Some claims against her probably are just, and others are not. The country is in the throes of an internal conflict, unable to pay, but the powers demand their "pound of flesh." They destroy her ships, stop her commerce, bombard her forts, and even kill a few of her citizens. And this while the question of arbitration is pending.

Proceedings of this kind between "Christian" nations should be impossible. It is to be hoped that the matter be brought before The Hague tribunal as speedily as possible, and that Venezuela's rights be fully protected. The court will now have a splendid opportunity of proving itself a blessing to mankind, by protecting the rights of the weak—where there are such rights—against the aggression of the strong, by an impartial verdict, founded only on facts. It is such a court the world needs. By the appeal to arms, wrong triumphs as often as right, if not often. By the appeal to the court, right should always come out triumphant.

ARD ON DRUNKARDS.
The new British licensing act which went into effect this year, is said to create quite a stir in London and elsewhere. It is also said to work well. It is, however, a radical departure from the established order of things. It aims at the drinking, rather than the selling of liquor.

Formerly the police could not touch a drunken man or woman, except they were guilty of disorderly conduct, but under the new law, anyone found intoxicated in any public place, can be arrested, prosecuted and punished. And if anyone is convicted three times in one year, he is blacklisted as an "habitual drunkard."

The following instances of the application of the law illustrate the power conferred upon the magistrates by it: "You will go to prison for a month," said a Salford magistrate to a man charged with drunkenness; "you will be placed on the blacklist, and while in prison you will be photographed. A copy of this will be sent to all house holders in Salford and the surrounding district. Any publican serving you with drink in the next three years is liable to a heavy fine."

"A London magistrate, in sentencing a woman drunkard, said: 'If you attempt to get served you will be fined. If any one treats you, he or she will be fined. If you get liquor in the next three years it will be at your peril.'"

From these expressions of two different magistrates in the cases of a man and a woman, the fate of anyone who may be convicted of drunkenness three times in a year will be understood. The act also protects children. Any one found drunk while in charge of a child is liable to a fine of £2 or a month's imprisonment. Several women in London, and the provinces have already been punished under this clause.

The law is also said to have broken up many of the "clubs" that exist merely for the purpose of evading the license act. The proprietors were not averse to paying their regular fine, but they do not care to risk imprisonment.

Another feature of the new law is, that habitual drunkenness is made valid ground for divorce. Several have already been separated as a result of this provision. The law is said to work well. It is based on the supposition that sobriety is an obligation, just as much as honesty, or chastity, and that one who violates that obligation is liable to punishment.

PEACE AND WAR.
Max Nordau sees bloodshed ahead. He thinks it will come when the Italian canal is completed. In a Vienna paper he predicts a mighty conflict in the Pacific ocean. The Anglo-Saxons, he says, will conquer the Germans and the French, and then cross over to Asia and fight the Russians, for the supremacy of that continent.

There seem to be a great number of Oliver Twists in office these days. Our Chinese friends are having a pepping good time over the advent of their New Year.

After all the delay of the Venezuelan peace negotiations may be due to work of the fine Italian hand.

The people of Schenectady have been praying for coal. When they pray for coal in Arcadia they get it.

New York is to have a city hall that is to cost eight million dollars. And it will never be marked below cost.

The Panther and Fort San Carlos had fair to become as famous as was once "The Panther and the Hind."

Congratulations to Colorado upon having elected a senator without bloodshed, as at one time seemed probable.

The Leocompton convention was rather more interesting than the Colorado legislature, interesting as the latter is.

"Can mud be used for fuel?" asks a Milwaukee paper. This is certain, that throwing mud at people usually makes them hot.

Germany's tallest soldier is a non-commissioned officer six feet eight inches in height. All the commissioned officers are much higher than this.

Has it come to the pass where the United States cannot enter into reciprocity with Cuba without first submitting it to Downing street for approval?

About the most amusing "threat" yet made is that of some of the English chambers of commerce, to retaliate against the United States for entering into the Cuban reciprocity treaty, is to increase the grain duties. This would simply be to cut off their noses to spite their faces.

Castro has offered the allies about all the guarantees for any award made against Venezuela that it is in his power to offer, and Uncle Sam thinks it eminently reasonable. Is it really their purpose and desire to test the power and validity of the Monroe doctrine? There is some such appearance.

The Deseret News cordially joins in the congratulations offered by the numerous friends of Bishop Leonard of the Episcopal church, on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of his consecration to the office, which he graces with so much honor and fidelity. We wish him a long life of usefulness and happiness.

Some of the radical Cubans want to start a political revolution, not by force of arms but by agitation. They want a revision of the Platt amendment and absolute sovereignty and independence. They cannot have the revision nor is it likely they will get an independence different from what they have. They would do wisely to let well enough alone.

"It is very hard to see how a good argument can be made against giving Apostle Smoot a seat in the senate if he should be elected. The main charge is that he recognizes in the church a higher power than the federal government. So does every good man who has any religion. That argument has been used ad nauseam against Catholics. Fifty years ago William H. Seward was teaching our people to obey a 'higher law,' says the Independent (Presbyterian). The Independent is liable to be disciplined by the local presbytery for such 'treasonable' sentiments."

The Indianapolis Sentinel is responsible for the following nursery rhyme: Sing a song of senators, Pockets full of bills; Four and twenty legislators Busy rolling pills. When a bill is introduced, The house begins to sing— 'Isn't that a pretty mess— Cooked up by the ring?'

The ring is in the lobby, Scheming after money; The senators are on the floor, Trying to be funny. And some take heed for future votes And some for future glory— And Tarkington? He's taking notes For use in future stories!

Estimates of gold production in 1902 indicate an aggregate output of \$306,700,000, or slightly more than in 1899, the year the Boer war practically stopped the enormous production of the Transvaal mines. The total last year was only \$262,650,000, to which the United States contributed \$78,666,000, as against \$87,710,000 contributed to this year's total, and the Transvaal \$5,000,000, against \$35,000,000 this year. The United States still holds first place; Australia again is in second place with \$81,000,000, and the Transvaal comes third instead of seventh. Russia produced \$29,000,000, and Canada, \$19,000,000.

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Matinee Wednesday at 3 p. m.
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"THE BURGLAR AND THE WAIF."
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